

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CORNELL E. DAVIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

L. CHAVEZ, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. [18-cv-05212-KAW](#) (PR)

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

Plaintiff Cornell E. Davis, a state prisoner incarcerated at the California State Prison in Los Angeles, has filed a *pro se* civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, alleging the violation of his constitutional rights by personnel at Salinas Valley State Prison, where he was previously incarcerated. Plaintiff has consented to the jurisdiction of the undersigned United States Magistrate Judge over this action. Plaintiff has filed a motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* (“IFP”), which is granted in a separate order. The Court now addresses the claims asserted in Plaintiff’s complaint.

**DISCUSSION**

**I. Standard of Review**

A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *Id.* § 1915A(b)(1), (2). *Pro se* pleadings must be liberally construed. *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep’t*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988).

1 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements:  
2 (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2) that  
3 the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. *West v.*  
4 *Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

5 Liability may be imposed on an individual defendant under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 if the  
6 plaintiff can show that the defendant's actions both actually and proximately caused the  
7 deprivation of a federally protected right. *Lemire v. California Dep't of Corrections &*  
8 *Rehabilitation*, 726 F.3d 1062, 1074 (9th Cir. 2013); *Leer v. Murphy*, 844 F.2d 628, 634 (9th Cir.  
9 1988); *Harris v. City of Roseburg*, 664 F.2d 1121, 1125 (9th Cir. 1981). A person deprives  
10 another of a constitutional right within the meaning of § 1983 if he does an affirmative act,  
11 participates in another's affirmative act or omits to perform an act which he is legally required to  
12 do, that causes the deprivation of which the plaintiff complains. *Leer*, 844 F.2d at 633.

## 13 **II. Plaintiff's Claims**

14 In his complaint, Plaintiff alleges the following:

15 On January 6, 2018, Officer L. Chavez was accompanying Nurse K. Mots while she  
16 distributed pills to inmates' cells. Plaintiff received his pills in a cup and was asked to place the  
17 empty cup on the tray slot. The cup fell, which irritated Officer Chavez, who slammed down the  
18 tray slot door on Plaintiff's finger. Officer Chavez said, "Oops, watch your finger," locked the  
19 tray slot and left. Plaintiff's finger was trapped in the tray slot. He screamed and yelled for  
20 assistance and other inmates also started yelling for assistance for Plaintiff. Officer Gutierrez  
21 finally came and freed Plaintiff's finger.

22 Liberally construed, the allegations appear to give rise to a cognizable Eighth Amendment  
23 claim for excessive force against Officer Chavez. The allegations also appear to give rise to a  
24 cognizable Eighth Amendment claim against Nurse Mots because she was present and did not stop  
25 Officer Chavez or come to Plaintiff's assistance by opening the tray slot.

## 26 **CONCLUSION**

27 Based on the foregoing, the Court issues the following Orders:

28 1. Liberally construed, the allegations appear to give rise to a cognizable Eighth

1 Amendment claim for excessive force against both Defendants.

2 2. The Clerk of the Court shall mail a Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of  
3 Service of Summons, two copies of the Waiver of Service of Summons, a copy of the complaint  
4 (docket no. 1) and all attachments thereto, a copy of this Order, and a copy of the form “Consent  
5 or Declination to Magistrate Judge Jurisdiction” to Officer L. Chavez and Nurse K. Mots at  
6 Salinas Valley State Prison. This form can also be found at [www.cand.uscourts.gov/civilforms](http://www.cand.uscourts.gov/civilforms).  
7 The Clerk shall also mail a copy of the complaint and a copy of this Order to the State Attorney  
8 General’s Office in San Francisco, and a copy of this Order to Plaintiff.

9 3. Defendants are cautioned that Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires  
10 them to cooperate in saving unnecessary costs of service of the summons and complaint. Pursuant  
11 to Rule 4, if Defendants, after being notified of this action and asked by the Court, on behalf of  
12 Plaintiff, to waive service of the summons, fail to do so, they will be required to bear the cost of  
13 such service unless good cause be shown for their failure to sign and return the waiver forms. If  
14 service is waived, this action will proceed as if Defendants had been served on the date that the  
15 waiver is filed, except that pursuant to Rule 12(a)(1)(A)(ii), Defendants will not be required to  
16 serve and file an answer before sixty days from the date on which the request for waiver was sent.  
17 (This allows a longer time to respond than would be required if formal service of summons is  
18 necessary.)

19 Defendants are advised to read the statement set forth at the foot of the waiver form that  
20 more completely describes the duties of the parties regarding waiver of service of the summons. If  
21 service is waived after the date provided in the Notice but before Defendants have been personally  
22 served, the answer shall be due sixty days from the date on which the request for waiver was sent  
23 or twenty days from the date the waiver form is filed, whichever is later.

24 4. Defendants shall file their Consent or Declination to Magistrate Judge Jurisdiction on or  
25 before the date their answer is due.

26 5. The following briefing schedule shall govern dispositive motions in this action:

27 a. No later than thirty days from the date the answer is due, Defendants shall file a  
28 motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion. If Defendants file a motion for

summary judgment, it shall be supported by adequate factual documentation and shall conform in all respects to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56. If Defendants believe this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, they shall so inform the Court prior to the date the summary judgment motion is due. All papers filed with the Court shall be promptly served on Plaintiff.

At the time of filing the motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion, Defendants shall comply with the Ninth Circuit's decision in *Woods v. Carey*, 684 F.3d 934 (9th Cir. 2012), and provide Plaintiff with notice of what is required of him to oppose a summary judgment motion. If the motion is based on non-exhaustion of administrative remedies, Defendants must comply with the notice and procedural requirements in *Albino v. Baca*, 747 F.3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2014). See *Stratton v. Buck*, 697 F.3d 1004, 1008 (9th Cir. 2012).

b. Plaintiff's opposition to the motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion shall be filed with the Court and served on Defendants no later than twenty-eight days after the date on which Defendants' motion is filed. The Ninth Circuit has held that the following notice should be given to *pro se* plaintiffs facing a summary judgment motion:

The defendants have made a motion for summary judgment by which they seek to have your case dismissed. A motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case.

Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there is no genuine issue of material fact -- that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony), you cannot simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the defendant's declarations and documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, summary judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you. If summary judgment is granted [in favor of the defendants], your case will be dismissed and there will be no trial.

*Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 962-63 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc).

Before filing his opposition, Plaintiff is advised to read the notice that will be provided to him by Defendants when the motion is filed, and Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317 (1986) (party opposing summary judgment must come

1 forward with evidence showing triable issues of material fact on every essential element of his  
2 claim). Plaintiff is cautioned that because he bears the burden of proving his allegations in this  
3 case, he must be prepared to produce evidence in support of those allegations when he files his  
4 opposition to Defendants' summary judgment motion. Such evidence may include sworn  
5 declarations from himself and other witnesses to the incident, copies of documents authenticated  
6 by sworn declaration or discovery. Plaintiff will not be able to avoid summary judgment simply  
7 by repeating the allegations of his complaint.

8 The same evidentiary requirement applies if Defendants file a motion for summary  
9 judgment for failure to exhaust administrative remedies. To oppose this motion, Plaintiff must  
10 present any evidence he may have which tends to show that he did exhaust administrative  
11 remedies or was excused from doing so. Again, the evidence may be in the form of declarations,  
12 that is statements of fact from himself or other witnesses signed under penalty of perjury, copies of  
13 documents accompanied by a declaration showing where they came from and why they are  
14 authentic, or discovery documents such as answers to interrogatories or depositions. In  
15 considering a summary judgment motion for failure to exhaust administrative remedies, the Court  
16 can decide disputed issues of fact about this portion of the case. *See generally Albino*, 747 F.3d at  
17 1172-73; *Stratton*, 697 F.3d at 1008.

18 c. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than fourteen days after the date  
19 Plaintiff's opposition is filed.

20 d. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due. No  
21 hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court so orders at a later date.

22 6. Discovery may be taken in this action in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil  
23 Procedure. No further court order pursuant to Rule 30(a)(2) or Local Rule 16 is required before  
24 the parties may conduct discovery.

25 7. All communications by Plaintiff with the Court must be served on Defendants, or  
26 Defendants' counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true copy of the document to  
27 Defendants or counsel.

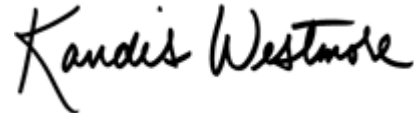
28 8. It is Plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the Court

1 informed of any change of address by filing a separate paper with the clerk headed "Notice of  
2 Change of Address," and must comply with the Court's orders in a timely fashion. Failure to do so  
3 may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil  
4 Procedure 41(b).

5 9. Extensions of time are not favored, though reasonable extensions will be granted. Any  
6 motion for an extension of time must be filed no later than three days prior to the deadline sought  
7 to be extended.

8  
9 IT IS SO ORDERED.

10 Dated: November 9, 2018



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KANDIS A. WESTMORE  
United States Magistrate Judge